

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 441
By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mayor Roland Dykes of
Newport.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Mayor Roland Dykes of Newport; and

WHEREAS, Roland Dykes was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens of the City of Newport and Cocke County in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Roland Dykes served with acumen and alacrity as Mayor of the City of Newport, in which position he had earned the respect of his colleagues in city and county government and his constituents alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his stalwart dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, a man of integrity and honor, Roland Dykes, a mason by trade, also built bridges of trust and cooperation as a public servant in Newport and Cocke County. He focused not on a problem but on its solution, utilizing his knowledge and insight, while keeping the best interests of the people as his only agenda; and

WHEREAS, a true gentleman and a man of conviction, Mayor Dykes was a renowned figure throughout East Tennessee, serving as the first black mayor of Newport and an outspoken advocate for racial harmony; and

WHEREAS, one of the longest serving members of the East Tennessee Development District with 35 years total, Roland Dykes was a mentor and friend to public servants at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2005, Mayor Dykes lost his life while traveling to Nashville to meet with other mayors and Governor Phil Bredesen and join the 2005 Leadership Cocke County Class at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Dykes' passing is a tragic loss felt across the state; Governor Phil Bredesen said, "Mayor Dykes was not only an outstanding public servant and an icon in his own right, but he was also a great friend"; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Roland Dykes was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Roland Dykes enjoyed the loving companionship of his 8 children, Terry Stewart, Roland A. Dykes, III, Stephanie Dykes Stewart, Gary Allen Dykes, Kathy Dykes Sims, Vivian Dykes Reed, Dion Dykes, Sr., and Scottie Dykes; he was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Carol Smith Dykes; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Roland Dykes leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Dykes was one of the few men who always practiced what he preached, and he was a living embodiment of the dream of which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. eloquently spoke so many years ago; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mayor Roland Dykes, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mayor Dykes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.